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THE KELLAS CAT: REVIEWING AN ENIGMA

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ABSTRACT. A literature review is presented, covering the discovery, morphology, and identity of the Kellas cat—a black, gracile felid recorded from Scotland during the 1980's, and verified by a series of preserved specimens. Three other black felids, discovered in Scotland during the same period, but of less distinctive appearance, are also included; their identifies have bearing upon that of the Kellas cat.

INTRODUCTION

Over the past few decades, numerous reports of large, unidentified felids have been filed from all parts of Great Britain (Shuker 1989). Usually, such reports have not been substantiated by the procurement of specimens, the most notable exception being a female puma, *Felis concolor,* captured alive in Cannich, northern Scotland, on October 29, 1980 (Dow and Airs 1980, Shuker 1989).

During the later 1980's, however, several specimens of an unusual felid were obtained from various localities within the Grampian and Highlands regions of Scotland. As some of the earlier specimens were captured near to the hamlet of Kellas, and are the ones to have attracted most media attention, the form as a whole is nowadays popularly referred to as the Kellas cat (Shuker 1989).

The reason for public interest in the Kellas cat is its distinctive morphology. Its notably gracile body and limbs, jet-black coat, and wildcat stature collectively set it apart from the British wildcat subspecies (now thought to be restricted to Scotland), *Felis silvestris grampia,* and also from the feral domestic cat, *F. s. catus*—this subspecific ranking follows Corbet (1978), and Honacki, Kinman, and Koeppl (1982).

Information concerning the Kellas cat has not previously been collected and presented in the form of a scientific paper. To rectify this, a review of the morphology and likely identity of the Kellas cat is presented herein.

DISCOVERY

The area within which the Kellas cat specimens have been obtained (Fig. 1) is contained within the West Moray district of Scotland, which straddles the Grampian-Highlands regional border. The principal specimen provenances are the hamlets of Kellas and Advie, each set within a valley and surrounded by forests and mountains.

In June, 1984, an unusual felid was trapped in a fox snare on the grounds of Revack Lodge and discovered by the lodge's gamekeeper Ronald Douglas (Anonymous 1984a). An adult male, >1 m long, it was taken to the lodge

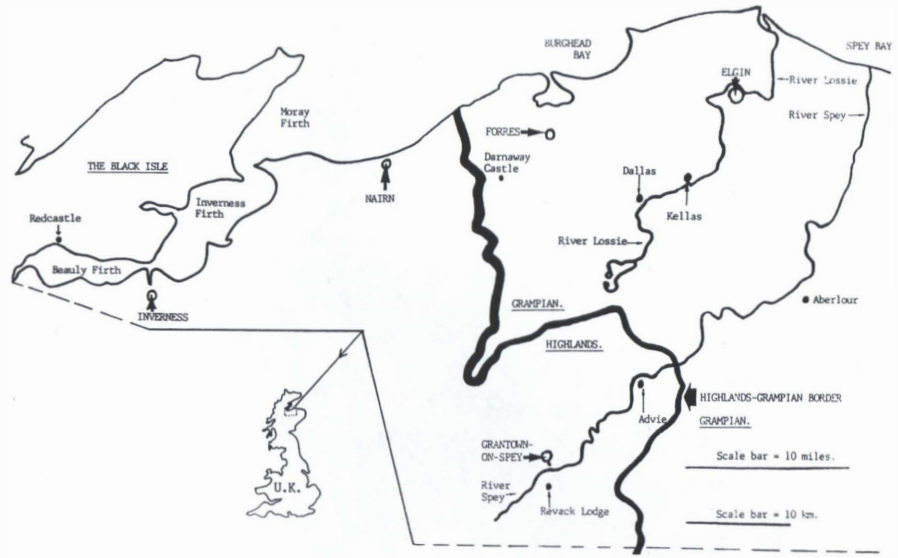

FIG. 1.—Scottish locality in West Moray from which all specimens of Kellas cat currently known have been obtained.

dead, and was later lost after having been sent to a taxidermist for preservation (Morgan 1984, Anonymous 1985a, Shuker 1989).

In October, 1984, an almost identical felid became known. Owned by Tomas Christie, it was a taxiderm specimen; the cat in question had been shot in 1983 while crossing the River Lossie near Kellas (Anonymous 1984b, Shuker 1989). Another adult male, it will be referred to hereafter as Specimen K (Figs. 2 and 3).

In April, 1985, a third specimen was obtained, a male aged approximately 12 months, shot by a gamekeeper near Advie (Anonymous 1985b, Shuker 1989), and hereafter referred to as Specimen A. In October, 1985, a fourth specimen, a young male 880 mm in length (Fig. 4), was procured near Kellas (Morgan 1985, Shuker 1989). All of these cat discoveries attracted considerable coverage by British newspapers. Since then, further Kellas cat carcasses have been obtained from Aberlour and Darnaway (Johnston 1987), and the author has received eyewitness accounts of comparable creatures from as far afield as Aberdeenshire and the Black Isle, thereby increasing appreciably the Kellas cat's known range. A more detailed account of the history of the Kellas cat is presented elsewhere (Shuker 1989).

MATERIALS

Excluding age-related size differences, the Kellas cat specimens so far obtained appear similar to one another in terms of superficial external mor-

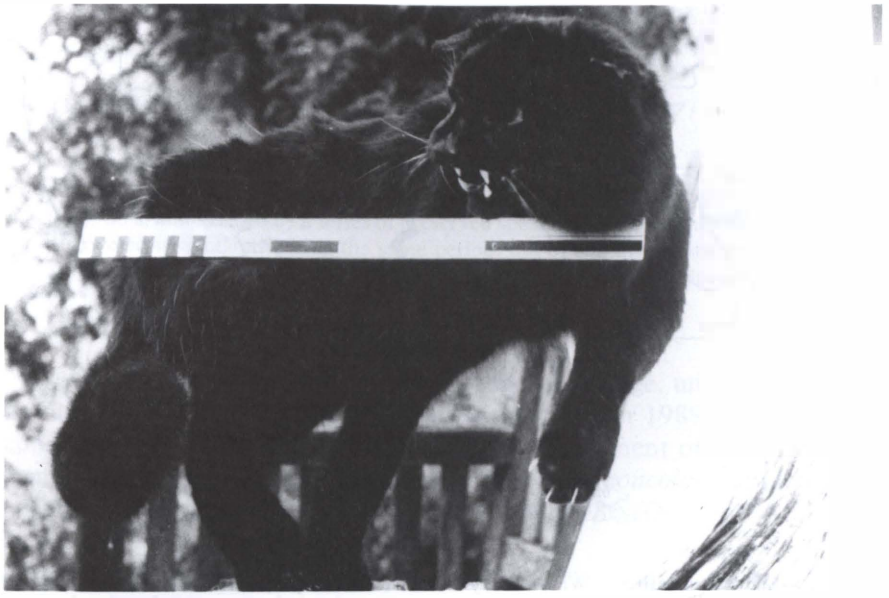

FIG. 2.—Specimen K in mounted form. Ruler in photograph = 40 cm long. (Charles Thomas.)

phology (Shuker 1989). To date, however, information obtained from detailed scientific examination of Kellas cats is available only in relation to Specimens K (Hills 1985) and A (Hills 1986), both of which were examined by mammalogist Daphne M. Hills of the British Museum (Natural History). Also, the author has examined Specimen K. Thus, the following description of the Kellas cat is based upon these two specimens, and drawn from the above-mentioned sources. Specimen A (BMNH 85.815) was donated to the British Museum by Di Francis; the remaining specimens are currently in private ownership.

MORPHOLOGY

Table 1 provides a list of measurements recorded from Specimens K and A. Most of the former are reproduced from Hills (1985) and the latter from Hills (1986), by kind permission of Daphne Hills; additional measurements for Specimen K are drawn from the author's examination of this felid.

The skeletal measurements recorded from Specimen K were obtained indirectly, by x-ray analysis of the taxiderm exhibit (Hills 1985); those for Specimen A were obtained directly from the prepared skeleton (Hills 1986). Thus, the measurements given for Specimen A are more accurate than those for Specimen K.

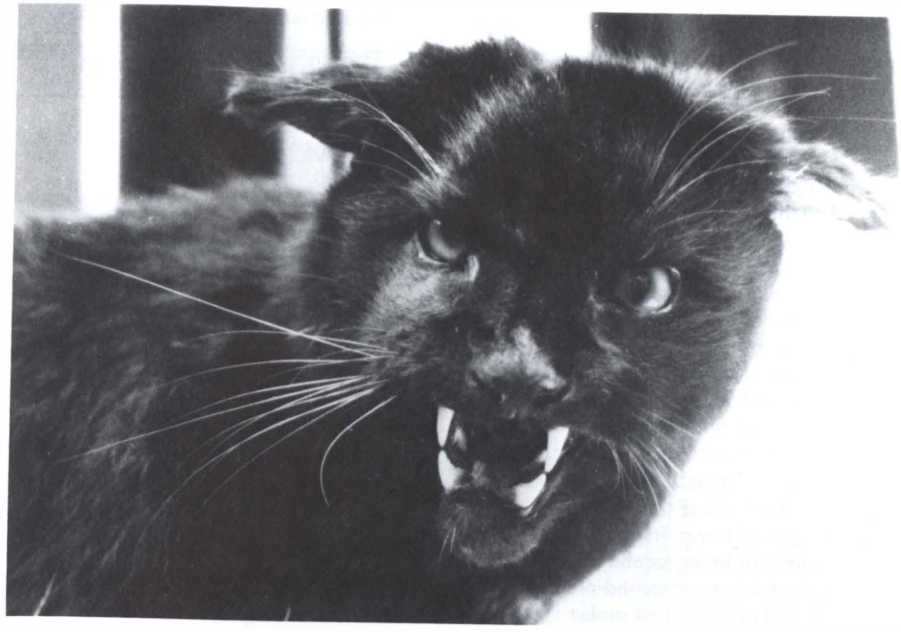

FIG. 3.—Head of Specimen K in mounted form. (Charles Thomas.)

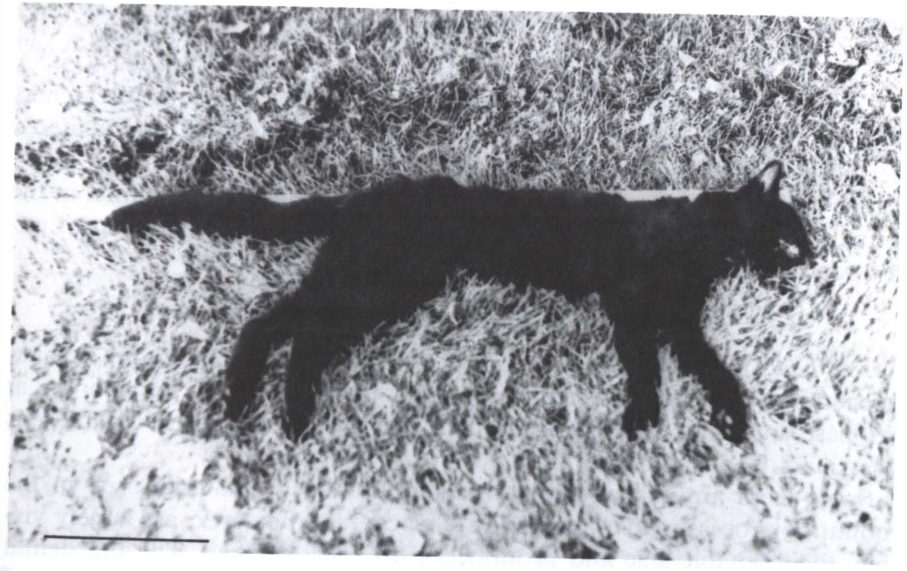

FIG. 4.—Young male Kellas cat obtained in October 1985. Scale bar = 200 mm. (Sandy Brander.)

TABLE 1.—Table of measurements recorded from two Kellas cat specimens, K and A.

Measurements (mm)	Specimen K (Kellas, mounted)	Specimen A (Advie)
Length of head and body	650	590
Height of shoulder	*360	–
Length of tail	300	290
Length of hind foot	130	138
Length of ear	50	68
Length of femur	–	132
Length of tibia	144	137
Length of humerus	–	117.5
Length of radius	120	112
Length of ulna	*140	132
Greatest length of skull	105	100
Zygomatic width	75	69.5
Length of cranium	57	–
Length of mandible	69.5	–
Length of lower tooth-row	21.5	**23.8
Length of lower first premolar	5.2	5.6
Length of lower second premolar	7.3	6.7
Length of upper second premolar	6.7	–
Length of lower first molar	8.0	7.8
Weight (kg)	–	4.525
Cranial capacity (cm^3)	–	38
Cranial index	–	2.63

* = approximate.
** = includes a supernumerary anterior molar.

Table 2 summarizes comparative data recorded by previous researchers from the Scottish wildcat, and from U.K. domestic cats (feral, and neutered pets). The wildcat documented by Pocock (1934), obtained in January, 1934, by Sir R.W. Brooke at Ardgay, in Ross-shire, is the largest specimen in the British Museum's collection. There are some longer specimens, but of unrecorded weight (Tomkies 1977).

DESCRIPTION

The head is fairly long, the back of the skull is broad, yielding a squat appearance. The muzzle is relatively short; the nose is quite large, broad at the base and pale. The ears are rounded, untufted, and pricked. The eyes are round. The chin is prominent.

Some teeth are partially or completely hidden by material used in the mounting process with Specimen K. The canines, however, are largely visible, their notable size and prominence are very striking. The full dental complement of specimen A is readily visible, and corresponds with that of *F. s. grampia,* with the addition of three supernumerary teeth—an extra pair

TABLE 2.—Size comparisons of Scottish wildcats, Kellas cats, and domestic cats (ferals and neutered pets).

Felid	Data source	Date of specimen procurement	Specimen sex	Number of specimens	HBL (mm)	Mean HBL (mm)	TL (mm)	Mean TL (mm)	HFL (mm)	Mean HFL (mm)	Weight (kg)	Mean weight (kg)
Scottish wildcat	a	1919–39	M	102	365–653	589	210–342	315	127–147	138	3.0–6.9	5.1
Scottish wildcat	b	1958–73	M	26	515–650	564	235–356	307	115–147	134	3.5–7.1	4.7
		1958–73	F	16	507–595	543	240–360	293	105–140	126	2.5–5.6	3.9
Scottish wildcat	c	–	M	–	370–590	–	–	310	–	140	–	–
		–	F	–	350–540	–	–	290	–	130	–	–
Scottish wildcat	d	1934	M	1	625	625	360	360	145	145	7.1	7.1
Kellas cat	e	1983	M	1 (K)	650	650	300	300	130	130	–	–
	f	1985	M	1 (A)	590	590	290	290	138	138	4.5	4.5
Feral domestic	g	–	M	–	–	567.5	–	277.5	–	–	2.7–5.0	4.1
cat		–	F	–	–	500	–	242.5	–	–	1.6–3.4	2.6
Neutered domestic	g	–	M	–	–	555	–	287.5	–	–	2.1–4.6	3.5
cat			F	–	–	527.5	–	272.5	–	–	1.8–3.6	2.8

Abbreviations: HBL = Head and Body Length; TL = Tail Length; HFL = Hind Foot Length. a = Kirk and Wagstaffe (1943); b = Kolb (1977); c = Freethy (1983); d = Pocock (1934); e = Hills (1985); f = Hills (1986); g = Tabor (1983). M = Male; F = Female; K = Specimen K (Kellas cat); A = Specimen A (Kellas cat).

of anterior lower premolars, and a well-developed extra upper left incisor (Hills 1986).

The pelage is less dense than that of *F. s. grampia*; it is composed of three hair types. Type 1 is awn guard hair, distributed over all of the body, and glossy black, 50 mm in Specimen A (Hills 1986). Type 2 is primary guard hair, extremely long (>100 mm), stiff, white, and much less numerous than awn hair; it is widely scattered, but most common on the ventral body surface. Type 3 is under-fur; it is short, soft, and dark chocolate-brown. The upper coat is coarse, and uniformly black except for Type 2 hairs and two small white spots (one inguinal, one median thoracic). Specimen A exhibits a limited degree of cryptic striping; there is a series of dark bands upon the upper limbs and encircling the tail (Hills 1986), visible when viewed at certain angles and comparable to the cryptic rosettes of the melanistic jaguar, *Panthera onca,* and leopard ("black panther") *P. pardus.*

The vibrissae are extremely long and coarse; white in Specimen K, brown in Specimen A. The eyebrows are similarly long, harsh, and white. The vibrissae and eyebrows resemble the pelage's Type 2 hair.

The tail is broad and thickly-furred; it does not taper towards the tip. The paws are long and narrow, not round; the claws are white, and retractile; the pads are pale; the underside of the feet is thickly furred.

All specimens are visibly gracile, long-limbed, with a relatively long body (slender, but well-muscled), short tail, and proportionately small head. The hind limbs are especially lengthy and powerful in appearance.

Features of Specimen A's skull of particular taxonomic significance include the following: the junction of the nasals with the frontals continues the plane of the skull, the angular mandibular processes are pronounced, the presphenoid bone is broad, and the upper and lower postorbital processes almost meet (Hills 1986). The above bones are either obscured or missing in Specimen K.

Equally important in relation to felid taxonomy is gut length; a length of 135 cm was recorded from Specimen A (Hills 1986).

"Intermediate" Specimens

Since 1985, three black felids that have bearing upon the Kellas cat have been recorded from northern Scotland. A 1986, BBC-TV documentary, *On the Trail of the Big Cat,* produced by Martin Hughes-Games, reported the capture, by a BBC-TV research team, of a living felid in the Highlands that initially seemed to be a Kellas cat. An adult female, it was of similar size to the younger preserved Kellas cats previously obtained, and was predominantly black with widely scattered, white primary guard hairs. Closer observation of its morphology, however, exposed differences between this specimen and the series of preserved Kellas cats. Compared with these, the living cat's head was larger in relation to its stocky body, its tail was somewhat

longer, its limbs were shorter, and its teeth smaller, whereas its white primary guard hairs were less prominent. Its overall appearance was that of a wildcat-sized *F. s. catus,* with a fierce temperament characteristic of wildcats and feral domestics alike. Thus, it was not a Kellas cat as defined here. This view was also put forward by the Nature Conservancy Council, and by Edward Orbell, Director of the Highland Wildlife Park, where this specimen is presently housed (Morgan 1986). Unpublished chromosomal analyses subsequently carried out with this felid at the University of Aberdeen by David Fox, based upon morphological comparisons of specific chromosome pairs between *F. s. grampia* and *F. s. catus,* revealed that it was a wildcat × domestic cat hybrid (Shuker 1989).

Another wildcat-sized black cat was caught alive on February 28, 1988, at Redcastle, on the Black Isle, a fertile peninsula of the eastern Highlands, with patches of young forest. This felid, an adult male, measured approximately 900 mm in total length, and weighed 6 kg. Long white primary guard hairs were present amidst its otherwise jet-black pelage, and a small white spot was present upon its chest and between its eyes. Its limbs, although relatively lengthy, appeared thicker than those of the preserved Kellas cats (Jacks 1988, Shuker 1989). It is now housed at the Highland Wildlife Park. In contrast to the BBC black cat, Orbell considers that this second living specimen closely resembles the Kellas cat form as defined here (Shuker 1989). Thus, the Redcastle cat would seem to be intermediate between this and the BBC cat.

In their recent wildcat hybridization paper, French, Corbet, and Easterbee (1988) documented a black cat from Aberdeen in northern Scotland's Grampian region that was assumed from its basically black pelage to be a pure-bred *F. s. catus.* Morphometrical analysis, conversely, revealed it to be a hybrid of *F. s. catus* and *F. s. grampia.* In terms of superficial external morphology, this specimen therefore comprises an intermediate between the BBC cat and pure-bred *F. s. catus.*

Identity of the Kellas Cat

Following examination of Specimen K at the British Museum (Natural History), it was concluded there that, although the possibility of this felid being either an *F. s. catus* × *F. s. grampia* hybrid or a feral *F. s. catus* could not be totally dismissed, available evidence suggested that it was most probably a melanistic *F. s. grampia*—and, as such, the first example recorded from Great Britain (Hills 1985). This mounted specimen was also examined by Frank Turk, a retired zoologist at the University of Exeter, who shared the British Museum's opinion that it was most likely a melanistic wildcat (Goss 1985). Nevertheless, Specimen K was not an ideal specimen for taxonomic purposes; being a taxiderm exhibit, its internal tissues were not available for study, and those parts of its skeleton retained within the mount

could not be examined directly (certain taxonomically important cranial bones, including the nasals, were missing). Specimen A, conversely, had been made available as a perfectly preserved, complete carcass. As will be discussed below, this revealed that it exhibited certain similarities to *F. s. catus.* As a result of those, it was therefore concluded at the British Museum that this felid was not a pure-bred melanistic *F. s. grampia,* but, instead, an individual with some *F. s. catus* ancestry too; i.e., a hybrid, although one more closely allied to *F. s. grampia* than to *F. s. catus* (Hills 1986).

Yet, despite the Museum's pronouncement, debate has continued concerning the precise scientific identity of the Kellas cat. Four contenders have been put forward at various times; with particular reference to Specimens K and A, these can now be successively assessed.

1) Separate Taxonomic Status?

Although appealing and a favorite of media reporters, the possibility that the Kellas cat warrants separate taxonomic status from both *F. s. catus* and *F. s. grampia* has little or no merit. The evolution and continuing existence of an entirely new species of felid unknown to science in as well-explored a country as Great Britain is remote, to say the least (Shuker 1989). Equally, as its known distribution is wholly overlapped by that of *F. s. grampia,* with which it also shares the same habitat, it cannot by definition be a separate subspecies of *F. silvestris.* In any event, although, as will be seen, certain of its morphological features differ in relative dimensions from those of typical *F. s. grampia,* the Kellas cat does not possess any anatomical characteristics unique to itself, i.e., exhibited neither by *F. s. grampia* nor by *F. s. catus.*

2) Feral Domestic Cat?

Some of Specimen A's features suggest an *F. s. catus* link; e.g., the developed condition of its postorbital processes (Hills 1986) and the presence of a supernumerary upper incisor—a condition more commonly associated with *F. s. catus* than with *F. s. grampia* (Colyer 1936). Conversely, there are many more Kellas cat features that correspond more closely with those of *F. s. grampia.*

For example, the skull, limb, and dental dimensions of Specimen K not only exceed the upper limit of those on record for *F. s. catus,* but are at the upper limit of those recorded from *F. s. grampia* (Pocock 1934, Hills 1985). All other external measurements recorded for Specimen K, and also Specimen A, exceed those typical for *F. s. catus* and lie well within the range for *F. s. grampia* (Kirk and Wagstaffe 1943, Kolb 1977, Schauenberg 1977a).

One of the genes responsible for black coat coloration in *F. s. catus* is pleiotropic, with one of its effects being to increase overall body size (Jude 1955). Thus, it may be expected that frequently (although not invariably—Bernard Heuvelmans, personal communication), black specimens of *F. s. catus* may be larger than those of other coat colors. Nonetheless, this could not explain the presence of certain more specific features exhibited by Specimen A that once again ally it with *F. s. grampia.*

For example, the junction of its nasal and frontal bones continues the plane of the skull as in *F. s. grampia*—in *F. s. catus,* conversely, the junction occurs in a pit below the skull's plane, thereby yielding a notched appearance (Kolb 1977). Specimen A's broad presphenoid bone and prominent angular processes also compare most closely with those of *F. s. grampia.* Similarly, its cranial index of 2.63 and cranial capacity of 38 cm^3 once again link it to *F. s. grampia,* which, according to Schauenberg (1969), has a cranial index of <2.75 and a cranial capacity of >35 cm^3.

In addition, the possession by Specimen A of supernumerary lower premolars is a condition more commonly exhibited by *F. s. grampia* than by *F. s. catus* (Hochstrasser 1970). Pocock (1916) noted that of 11 *F. s. grampia* skulls in his possession, three had a pair of supernumerary lower premolars, and a fourth had one unpaired example. The well-developed teeth of Specimen K lie within the upper portion of the range of measurements recorded from *F. s. grampia* (Hills 1985).

Finally, at 135 cm, the gut length for Specimen A is notably less than the lower limit of the range recorded for *F. s. catus,* which is >200 cm (Haltenorth 1957). In contrast, a length of <110 cm is normal for *F. s. grampia* (Schauenberg 1977b), and <150 cm for *F. s. catus* × *F. s. grampia* hybrids (Hills 1986).

Consequently, there are far too many deviations from the *F. s. catus* condition that concomitantly are similarities to that of *F. s. grampia* for a pure-bred *F. s. catus* identity to be tenable in relation to the Kellas cat.

3) Melanistic Wildcat?

The possibility of the Kellas cat comprising a pure-bred melanistic morph of *F. s. grampia* was greatly popularized in early press reports, most probably due to Specimen K. Yet this attitude failed to acknowledge that the British Museum's identification of this felid as a black wildcat was only a provisional one, as the internal features that could have provided a more conclusive identification were either absent or obscured. When present—in Specimen A—however, these features included some that were most comparable to those of *F. s. catus,* thereby arguing against a pure-bred *F. s. grampia* identity for the Kellas cat.

In any event, melanistic individuals normally differ from typically pigmented individuals of their respective species in color and sometimes in overall size, but not in actual outline (i.e., relative body dimensions). Kellas cats, conversely, appear notably more gracile than typical tabby-colored specimens of *F. s. grampia,* judging not only from photographic evidence, but also from the testimony of veterinary surgeons and other persons with

zoological knowledge who have examined Kellas cat specimens (Morgan 1984, Anonymous 1984b, Morgan 1985, Shuker 1989).

Indeed, although the morphological dimensions recorded from Specimens K and A all fall within the respective ranges recorded for *F. s. grampia,* it is important to note that they do not all fall within the same section of these ranges. Judging from these two specimens, and in comparison with documented ranges for *F. s. grampia* (e.g., Pocock 1934, Kirk and Wagstaffe 1943, Schauenberg 1969, Kolb 1977, Tomkies 1977, Freethy 1983, Hills 1985, 1986), the Kellas cat's body is more slender and below average in weight, its limb lengths are much above average, as are those of its head, body, and teeth, whereas its tail is rather short relative to that of wildcats of comparable limb and body stature. Hills (1986) provides further comparative data for Specimen A.

Of particular note in relation to this issue is an unpublished multivariate analysis carried out by Don French (cited in Hills 1986), utilizing measurements taken from Specimen A, and those from specimens of *F. s. catus, F. s. grampia,* and *F. s. catus* × *F. s. grampia* hybrids as recorded by French, Corbet, and Easterbee (1988). Although the result was contained within the *F. s. grampia* range, it closely approached the borderline of *F. s. grampia* with *F. s. catus* × *F. s. grampia* hybrids (Hills 1986), thereby underlining the atypical overall morphology of this Kellas cat specimen in comparison with pure-bred *F. s. grampia.*

4) Hybrid of Domestic Cat and Wildcat?

From the above considerations, it is clear that the most satisfactory identity for the Kellas cat is that of an *F. s. catus* × *F. s. grampia* hybrid, which would naturally explain its otherwise anomalous amalgam of *F. s. catus* and *F. s. grampia* features.

Examples of such hybrids documented in the past have most resembled *F. s. grampia* in pelage coloration (e.g., Pitt 1934, Gray 1971, Robinson 1972), but French, Corbet, and Easterbee (1988) have revealed from crossbreeding experiments that hybrids with pelage colors ranging from mottled tabby to uniformly black also can occur. Hence, it is likely that both the black domestic-lookalike hybrid reported by French, Corbet, and Easterbee (1988) and the BBC's black hybrid are simple crossbreeds, quite probably F_1 hybrids, as they exhibit a straightforward combination of *F. s. catus* and *F. s. grampia* features (Shuker 1989).

However, in view of the noticeable gracility of the Kellas cats—and, to a lesser extent, of the Redcastle cat—these are most probably of more complex hybrid origin; i.e., the product of extensive introgression (Shuker 1989), which can produce organisms that are markedly different in morphology from either of the two pure-bred taxa contained within their ancestry (Ricklefs 1979).

It is easy to comprehend why, when only the Kellas cats were on record, the concept of a hybrid identity for them seemed somewhat implausible, as their gracility and black pelage seemed to set them apart from the stockier, tabby-colored wildcat-like hybrids previously known. However, the subsequent appearance of French's black domestic-lookalike hybrid and the BBC specimen, plus the corresponding findings documented by French, Corbet, and Easterbee (1988), confirmed that black hybrids can occur, and that the extent of hybridization that has been occurring in modern times between *F. s. catus* and *F. s. grampia* is more than sufficient to produce striking specimens of complicated, introgressive ancestry. Indeed, French, Corbet and Easterbee (1988) have noted that the phenomenon of *F. s. catus* × *F. s. grampia* hybridization in Scotland has occurred to such an extent that the "pure" form of *F. s. grampia* may be effectively extinct there. They record that most of this hybridization probably occurred in the early part of this century, when *F. s. grampia* numbers were low. It could be predicted from this that subsequent back-crossing between such hybrids and pure-bred specimens of *F. s. catus* and *F. s. grampia* over succeeding generations would ultimately yield felids of highly complex, hybrid lineage—and, sure enough, during the 1980's the Kellas cat form became known.

Other Cats

Nonetheless, there is some intriguing evidence to suggest that such forms may have arisen at least spasmodically in the past too. One of the many unusual beasts of Highland folklore is the fairy cat or *cait sith.* According to Briggs (1976), it is supposedly a sizeable animal, predominantly black in color, but with a white spot on its breast, with an arched back, and bearing erect bristles in its fur. Some authors also allege that is possesses "sparks" over its fur (Shuker 1989). It is clear that the above description of the *cait sith* compares closely with that of the Kellas cat (even incorporating its median thoracic white spot), especially if the "sparks" are equated with the Kellas cat's white primary guard hairs, gleaming conspicuously among its jet-black pelage of bristle-like awn hairs (Shuker 1989).

Moreover, if a Kellas cat happened to be startled by a chance encounter with an unwary human, it would automatically arch its back and erect its bristly fur; these are typical features of feline defensive behavior, serving to increase the cat's apparent size (Leyhausen 1979). Also worth noting is that, despite its name—and unlike many other mythical creatures of Highland folklore—the *cait sith* was not held to be a true fairy form by the local people. Instead, it was merely considered to be a transformed witch (Briggs 1976), and hence of corporeal rather than ethereal status. Certainly, witch-cats feature prominently within Highland folklore (Neil 1924).

One final matter worthy of brief mention in this review is the documentation by Satunin (1904) of a black felid form from Transcaucasia. Satunin

formally named it *Felis daemon,* declaring that it comprised a distinct species, but subsequent researchers classified it as a black morph of the Caucasian wildcat, *F. s. caucasica* (Smirnov 1917), and ultimately as a feral *F. s. catus* (Ognev 1935, Pocock 1951). Although its black pelage with long white guard hairs is comparable to that of the Kellas cat, its dimensions as given by Satunin (1904), and more recently by Aliev (1972), reveal it to be smaller in overall size, with shorter limbs and a longer tail, but within the recorded size range for *F. s. catus.*

Conclusion

The Kellas cat is certainly a hybrid of feral domestic cat, *F. s. catus,* and Scottish wildcat, *F. s. grampia,* albeit one that has arisen from a complex, introgressive ancestry, responsible for its superficially distinctive morphology. Therefore, although it is of no taxonomic significance, its discovery is of particular cryptozoological interest, as it vindicates many reports in recent years of black, long-limbed, fox-sized felids from northern Scotland, which were hitherto dismissed as sightings of pure-bred specimens of feral domestic cats, or even as misidentifications of stray dogs.

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